7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	X unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date June 2, 1982
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

CARBONDALE CITY HALL is a detached, masonry (brick and Pennsylvania bluestone) building, in the Romanesque Revival style, composed of a tower, a three-story wing, and a two-story wing. No alterations have been made to the building, nor has its wholeness been impaired in any way: it appears today as it did when it was erected in 1892-1894.

THE TOWER. This massive, square, five-story, brick, corner tower rests on a slightly battered ashlar podium. The 8 vertical rectangular windows on the first and second stories (4/story) are topped by massive bluestone lintels. The 4 vertical rectangular windows on the third story are topped by Romanesque arches of bluestone with bluestone impost blocks. The windows on the fourth story are lancets, situated in a Romanesque blind arcade, supported by a slightly projecting pilaster of red brick with lighter red brick coins and bluestone capitals. The lancets (6 on the south and east sides, 3 on the north and west sides), which are flat arched and disposed in an alternating 2-1-1-2 rhythm, are not unlike those in the tower of Richardson's Allegheny Court House (Pittsburgh, PA, 1884-1888). The third and fourth stories and the fourth and fifth stories of the tower are separated by a continuous string course of bluestone. On the fifth story is the tower clock. The wall surfaces above the faces of the clock are filled with six levels of recessed coffering, supported by a secondary pilaster order. Below the recessed surfaces of the clock faces are two round-headed arches which rest at the level of the string course. Also below the clock faces--at the top of the fourth story and immediately below the string course--is, in each face of the tower, a decorative brick balcony. The tower is topped by a pyramidal roof that is pierced by four wooden dormers, each with two louvered windows, and surmounted by a copper globe.

THE THREE-STORY WING. The eastern face of the tower and the eastern face of the three-story wing constitute the facade of Carbondale City Hall. Like the tower, the three-story wing rests on a slightly battered ashlar podium. The dominant feature of this wing on the ground level is the massive, half-circle, primary entrance arch of bluestone with a spandrel of bluestone, which is surmounted by a balcony surrounded by a baluster in the form of a Romanesque arcade. This massive entrance arch, which is not unlike the entrance arch of Richardson's Crane Memorial Library (Quincy, MA, 1880-1883), is echoed in the facade by the secondary entrance arch at the north end of the facade on the ground level. The northern side of the primary entrance arch and both sides of the secondary entrance arch are flanked by rusticated stone turrets. The deeply carved foliate capitals and bases of these three bluestone turrets are the only area of carved decoration on the facade of the building. Like the primary entrance arch, the secondary entrance arch has a bluestone spandrel. The 6 paired vertical rectangular windows on the eastern face and the 5 vertical rectangular windows on the northern and western faces on the third-story of this wing are topped by bluestone Romanesque arches that rest on bluestone lintels, and are not unlike the paired windows on the second story of Richardson's Allegheny Court House. The impost blocks on the third story of this wing create the impression of a continuous string course which unites the third story of this wing and the tower. The Romanesque arches on this story repeat the round-headed arches on the ground floor of this wing. The roof of this wing contains, in its eastern face, a gable, the northern face of which is pierced by a dormer. Both this gable and this dormer are of brick and are outlined by a bluestone stepped gable which is topped with a metal band. In the gable are four interlocking vertical rectangular windows, topped with bluestone lintels; in the dormer is a single vertical rectangular window, topped with a bluestone lintel. Both the gable and the dormer are flanked by circular, engaged, decorative brick turrets, which by bluestone bands are visually and structurally connected to the string course which

(Continued on attached Continuation Sheet)